

Hannah's Prayer

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Background

1. 1Samuel 1-2 is the only place Hannah is mentioned in the Bible.
2. Hannah is one of two wives of Elkanah. Peninnah, had children, but Hannah remained childless. Nevertheless, Elkanah preferred Hannah; she is the chiasmus or primary wife - 1Sam. 1:4-5, 9-11
3. Hannah is a prophetess; she foretells history in advance and is a psalmist. Her psalm is the second psalm recorded in Bible; Moses is the first. Her psalm was written in 1100 BC. David wasn't even born until 60 years later
4. Hannah had six children: Samuel, three more sons, and two daughters

B. Hannah's prayer - 1Sam. 2:1-10

I. A FERVENT PRAYER

- A. 1Thes. 5:17 - Paul isn't talking about non-stop prayer; it is prayer where one does not give up.
- B. Hannah's prayer - 1Sam. 1:12-18

II. A PRAYER FULL OF PAIN

- A. She prayed in anguish - 1Sam. 1:10
- B. Her pain was increased by others - 1Sam. 1:6-7
- C. God is the One to ask in times of trouble - Psalm 46:1-2, 50:15, 91:14-15

III. A PRAYER FILLED WITH PROMISE

- A. She offered a vow - 1Sam. 1:11
 1. She was not bribing God, nor bargaining with Him; she was proving her commitment to Him - Ecc. 5:4-5
- B. She wasn't asking God to do everything for her.
 1. When you pray for growth in the church, are you willing to work for it? - Eph. 4:15-16
 2. When you pray for strength to resist temptation, do you make efforts to minimize your exposure to it? - Rom. 13:14
 3. When you pray for an opportunity to teach, do you go seeking opportunities? - Col. 4:2-4

IV. A FREQUENT PRAYER

- A. She continued to pray - 1Sam. 1:12
- B. Repeating a prayer does not show a lack of faith
 1. Jesus prayed three times in the garden - Matt. 26:39-44
 2. Paul prayed three times - 2Cor. 12:7-8
- C. God wants us to persist in prayer - Luke 18:1-8

V. A FRANK PRAYER

- A. She prayed sincerely, not to impress others - 1Sam. 1:13
- B. Paul's personal prayer came from his sorrow - Rom. 10:1, 9:1-2
- C. Psalm 20:1-4

VI. A PRAYER OF FAITH

- A. She was confident she would be answered - 1Sam. 1:17-18
 - 1. Eli wasn't speaking from inspiration. He offered his hope that God would answer her prayer. This encouraged her; someone else believed God was listening and would answer. So, Hannah went on her way as if
- B. James 1:6-7; Matt. 6:8; Eph. 3:20; Mark 11:24

VII. A FULFILLED PRAYER

- A. Hannah received her heart's desire, and more - 1Sam. 1:20
 - 1. Samuel became a priest of God, a judge of Israel, a mighty prophet, and the anointer of kings of Israel
 - 2. The name Samuel in Hebrew is Shmuel which is translated to mean Shema-El "God Heard," not that she asked for him but rather that God heard her prayers.
- B. There is a reason why the prayer of a woman is in scripture - Rom. 15:4
 - 1. Hannah was praying a prayer that illustrates New Testament teaching on prayer 1200 years before the New Testament was written
 - 2. So, pray as Hannah prayed.